

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-32 have been examined. Claims 9, 11, 16, 18, and 22-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-8, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19-21 are allowed and claims 9, 11, 16, 18, 22 and 24-32 contain allowable subject matter.

**I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 11, 16, 18 and 22-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite due to antecedent basis reasons. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the cited claims, along with additional other claims to correct any antecedent basis issues therein. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

**II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 2000-309269 to Kono et al. ("Kono")<sup>1</sup>**

The Examiner has rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kono.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 23 so that it is now dependent upon allowable claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot.

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<sup>1</sup> The Examiner cites to JP 2000-309268 on page 3 of the Office Action, but indicates that the inventor is "Kono." Since the inventor of JP 2000-309268 is not Kono, but the inventor of JP 2000-309269, cited in the February 28, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement, is Kono, and includes analogous figures and reference numerals as set forth in the Office Action, Applicant assumes the Examiner intended to cite to JP 2000-309269.

### III. Allowable Subject Matter

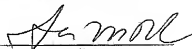
As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-8, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19-21 are allowed and claims 9, 11, 16, 18, 22 and 24-32 contain allowable subject matter.

### IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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